

Appln. No.: 09/747,150

Amdt. Dated April 5, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace first paragraph, page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Cross Reference to Related Applications

Reference is made to ~~Application Serial Number _____~~ (Attorney Docket No. ~~F-139~~) United States Patent No. 6,621,591, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRINTING AN INFORMATION-BASED INDICIA PROGRAM (IBIP) POSTAGE FROM A DOCUMENT INSERTER, assigned to the assignee of this application and filed on even date herewith.

Please replace top paragraph, page 7, lines 1 through 11, with the following:

stream processor module also inputs the address information to an envelope formatter 32, which formats the envelope in accordance with information contained in an envelope definition file 34 for placement of the destination address, return address, barcode, postage or other indicia or image to be printed on the envelope face. The envelope formatted information is passed to the IBIP generator 36 to produce the IBIP postage indicia in accordance with the value indicated by the postage meter 38 and forwards the postage indicia image and address image to the envelope printer 40. The printed envelopes may be fed from the printer 40 to an inserter that inserts documents fed to it from the document printer 30 to produce a matched mailpiece for placement into the delivery stream.

Please replace page 8, beginning with line 1 through line 30, with the following:

document is processed with an embedded address as shown in step 104. The address information is typically input from an address database or may be individually inserted in accordance with the third-party word processing application. Once the document is processed with the embedded address in step 104, the method moves to step 106,

wherein the processed document of step 104 is sent to a printer driver as a print stream. The printer driver in step 106 converts the print stream into a document description format and sends it to the print stream processor module in step 107. The print stream processor module in step 107 has means for determining in step 108 which information in the print stream is textual information, and in step 110 which information is control code information. The print stream processor module then removes the control code information as indicated in step 112. The address is parsed from the remaining information as indicated in step 114 and the print stream processor module sends the textual information to the document printer as indicated in step 116. The print stream processor module sends the parsed address information to an address validation correction test as shown in step 118. The address is tested for validity and compliance with USPS regulations. Software such as Pitney Bowes Smart Mailer mail management software operates to find duplicate addresses, detect undeliverable addresses and, where possible, corrects the errors in the address as indicated by the address correction method step 120. In the valid address method step 118, the ZIP code is also examined and a ZIP+4 code is provided where necessary. The output of the valid address method test step 118 is transmitted to the correcting or corrected address [from] step 120 if step 118 finds an incorrect address. From the address correction method step 120 is output to the document printer method step 116, [and also] If step 118 finds a valid address, the output goes to the create indicia image method step 122. In the create indicia image method step 122, the IBIP postage indicia is generated in accordance with the required postage amount for printing on the envelope.